

August 26th, 2013

Aliah Deleon is a two year-old pediatric oncology patient at Chris Evert Children's Hospital at Broward Health. She is diagnosed with relapsed Stage IV Neuroblastoma. Aliah was first diagnosed in August 2012, when she was only one year old. The year following her initial diagnosis involved many courses of treatment at both Miami Children's Hospital and Broward Health Medical Center. Aliah turned two years old in the pediatric oncology unit, and hospital treatment has become part of much of what she knows in her life thus far.

Aliah's treatment has included many courses involving radiation, chemotherapy, and surgery. At Miami Children's Hospital, she was treated on a chemotherapy protocol, and had surgery to remove the mass. Additionally, she had autologous bone marrow transplantation. She came to Broward Health in April 2013, and received a course of chemotherapy. In August 2013, one year after her initial diagnosis, she presented with visible lumps in her skull and we learned the neuroblastoma had returned. She began being treated with radiation and chemotherapy and continues to be treated at present time.

During the several months that Aliah has been a patient with Broward Health, many of the staff have enjoyed her company. When feeling well, Aliah is playful and happy little girl who has been put through many challenges during her young life. Despite being without transportation of her own, Aliah's mother always finds a way to bring Aliah to her treatment at the hospital. Aliah's three siblings often accompany her mother on their hospital visits and try to provide a sense of support although they are just children themselves. Her mother has been unable to work, as she has needed to be available for Aliah's consistent treatment throughout the past year. The family is residing with relatives, and could benefit greatly from assistance with groceries, childcare needs, and transportation for the many trips to and from the hospital. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Melissa Stachowiak, LCSW

Social Worker